

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

but threw off the Chinese yoke as well, in 931. This brought to an end China's political domination, though five centuries later for a brief interval of fourteen years (HH²⁸) ^{china} regained control. In their life as a nation and as individuals, the Annamites to this day bear the indelible print of Chinese culture left by the first conquest. The conquest of the Chams was but the first step in that *drang* *Jan* which was to characterize Annamite expansion for the years. Under their irresistible drive, the frontiers of the gave way and the old kingdom of Champa - vanished, leaving oiiy of its admirable architecture and ephemeral splendour. Annamite conquest was typical of the future : the Annamites left violent wake left only ruins. Unlike the Chinese, they did not assimilate the vanquished, but pushed back into the remnants which they had unwittingly spared, so as to the ground for their own agricultural colonization. The same characterized their later wars with the Khmers and Laotians. Not reconquered by the Chinese nor the internal strife by was ceaselessly rent could arrest this dynamic south- The history of modern Annam was equally dominated by struggles. By the end of the sixteenth century the reigning of Le had become decadent. The power that was slipping from disputed by three great rivals who, for the next few for it among themselves and with the nominal In the seventeenth century the Mac family experienced a only to disappear before an insurrection that a more than a hundred years later. A parallel to the has often been drawn with that of the Merovingians

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 of strength. To this, day their name,, like that of the
 in Eagkod, serves as a raMying-cry for rebellion in
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